

# Aboriginal Education School

## District No. 62

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### Our Vision, Mission, and Values

**VISION**—The Aboriginal Education Team, comprised of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, believe that through our actions today, our children will be proud to see their culture integrated and respected within schools, community and society. We believe they will become academically and socially successful, proud leaders in their communities.

**MISSION**—The Aboriginal Education Team commits to work for Aboriginal students in an accountable way in order to nurture, support, mentor and teach students to take pride in their culture, their history and their traditions..

**VALUES**—As an Aboriginal Education Team, we believe that personal integrity, honesty, respect and inclusiveness are essential to our work with students, parents, community members, teachers, administrators and each other.

May 2013

Spring 2013

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#### **Aboriginal Languages**

Below are the three words for thank you for our three island regions:

Hych'ke -  
Coast Salish

Kleco kleco -  
Nuu-chah-nulth

Gilakasla -  
Kwakwaka'  
wakw

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## Department News

Our school district continues to embrace the Aboriginal Education Agreement Goals in schools: academic achievement, sense of belonging, Aboriginal ways of knowing and Aboriginal languages. Daily, I see more and more examples of our many of our schools that are connecting to our First Nation and Aboriginal Communities and the bringing role models into classrooms on a regular basis. There were 400 presentations this year all enhancing the curriculum for all students in schools. I would like to thank all the seventy or so role models for visiting our schools this year- Hych'ka (Thank-you). Another event that brings community together is our annual Celebrating Student Success, February 27th featuring youth leadership. We had a full house and every school proudly

displayed examples of student school work in academics, Aboriginal Ways of Knowing, and/or Aboriginal Languages. Students brought moms, dads, grandparents and whole families to show them the work each AESW or Aboriginal Literacy teacher displayed. It is impressive to see the dedication of the Aboriginal education staff to the community. Hych'ka to the staff in our schools for advocating every day for Aboriginal learners and learning.

Our program connects all ages to learning, this year our school district's Ready, Set, Learn Kindergarten and ECE team provided learning opportunities that featured Aboriginal world views through play, literacy and song. Ed Peekeekoot was a hit at both RSL gala events at Westshore Mall and SeaParc. Our Elder Shirley Alphonse acknowledged the local territory of T'Sou-ke Nation.

Aboriginal education department is supported through and Aboriginal Education Council made up of school and community partner groups that support our program through partner group initiatives. Some highlights this year are the newly developed First Nation series such as T'Sou-ke Solar Tours where curriculum is developed by the nation and tours and First Nation world views are taught to school children K to 12 by youth.

QENENITEL elementary pilot has presented T'Sou-ke Nation and Scia'new Nation series to classrooms using a mentorship approach to learning First Nation world views. Pacheedaht Nation had numerous cedar projects this year at schools with more to look forward to next fall. We continue to be inspired by Victoria Native Friendship Centre, Box of Treasure tours, Metis Enhancement Project, BEAR. Hych'ka

*Kathleen King-Hunt, Principal*

### **Our Traditional Territories**

School District Schools are located on two traditional territories:

- Coast Salish
- Nuu-chah-nulth

### **Our three local First Nations Bands**

Pacheedaht Nation – Port Renfrew

T'Sou-ke Nation – Sooke

Scia'new Nation – Beecher Bay

*'SD No. 62 On Reserve population is 14%' There are 942 Aboriginal students in our program this year!'*

### **Métis Organizations**

- Métis Nation of Greater Victoria. MNGV
- Métis Community Services
- SD No. 62 has 256 Métis students in our schools!

# Our Staff

## **School — District Teachers — ABED**

**Norma-Jean May** – Belmont Secondary

**Kathy Sudlow** – Edward Milne Community School, EMCS

**Erin Wood** – Spencer Middle

**Patti Christianson** – Journey Middle

**Jon Carr**—Dunsmuir Middle

**Lisa Stuart** – Port Renfrew Elementary

**Marlys Denny** – Aboriginal Education Literacy, Saseenos Elementary

## **School — E.S.D. Teachers**

**Jon Carr** - Dunsmuir Middle

**Gillian Eggleton** - Spencer Middle

**Patti Christianson** - Journey Middle

**Norma—Jean May** - Belmont Secondary

**Kathy Sudlow** - EMCS

**Gillian Eggleton** - Pacific Secondary

**Marlys Denny** - Elementary

**Huw Griffiths** – Elementary

## **E.S.D. Support Workers**

**Sam Peekeekoot** - Elementary

**Brandy Elliott** - Hans Helgesen Elementary

**Nadine Charles**— Ruth King Elementary

## **School Teachers**

**Loni Skelton** – Westshore First Nations Grad Program

**Shannon MacDonald** — Port Renfrew Elementary

## **Other District Staff**

**Earleen Covey** - Secretary

**Pam Jones** - Noon Hour Supervisor Assistant, Port Renfrew Elementary

**Lavina Charles** – Halq'emeylem Language

**Shirley Alphonse**— T'Sou-ke Elder Project

## **Aboriginal Education Support Workers**

**Trish McNabb** – Edward Milne Community School, EMCS

**Lynn Ferguson** – Belmont Secondary

**Laurie Gibson**— Pacific Secondary & MTC

**Sherri Rose**—Westshore Centre & First Nation Grad Program

**Derrick Titian** - Dunsmuir Middle, Sangster & Wishart Elementary

**Dennis Warbrick** – Spencer Middle

**Michelle Wolf** – Journey Middle

**Melinda Zelada** – Poirier & Saseenos Elementary

**Eddie Charley** – John Muir, Elder Project & T'Sou-ke Homework

**Rosalind Wilkinson** - Happy Valley & John Stubbs Elementary/Middle

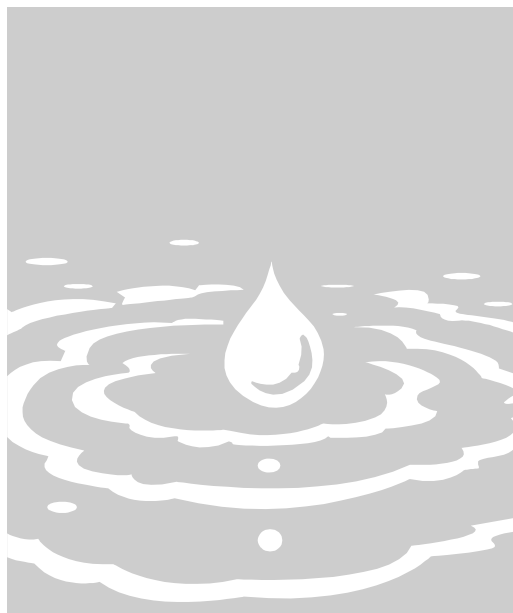
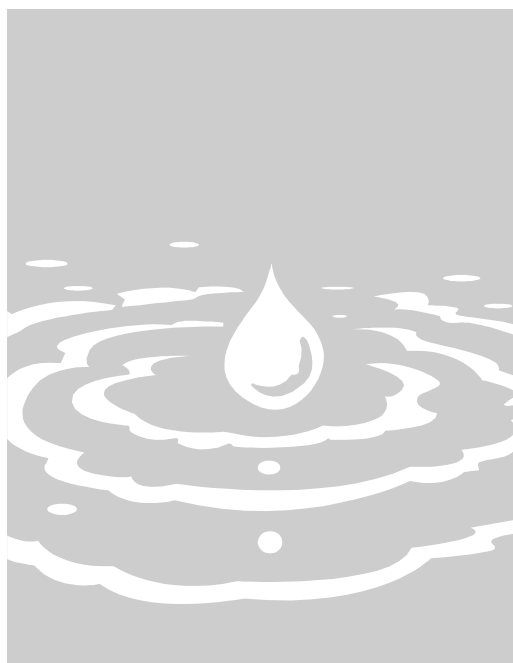
**Nadine Charles** — Sooke Elementary

**Murielle Lagace** – Nature 'K', Ruth King Elem., Westshore Centre

**Sharon Bond** – David Cameron & Savory Elementary

**Brandy Elliott**— Hans Helgesen Elem.

**Sharlene Chaves** – Lakewood, Millstream, Crystal View, Willway & Colwood Elem.



# Early Learning News

## Journeys of the Heart

The Journeys of the Heart Program is now accepting new participants for the 2012/2013 school year.

As Aboriginal families, we believe that it takes a whole community to raise a child.

The Journeys of the Heart program helps families to build and strengthen their child's foundation. The staff of the Journeys of the Heart program work with the child and their families (at least one adult) to determine their child's individual learning styles to help make learning fun.

We believe that a child's identity is very important to their self esteem. We believe that children who have a firm sense of identity do better in school. Cultural identity is a key part of the Journeys of the Heart curriculum.

Let's work together and celebrate our Indigenous heritage while building our children's self esteem and knowledge base so that they may enjoy their lifelong learning experiences.

The program is free. We run Mondays and Wednesdays for a morning program 9:00 to 11:30am and an afternoon program from 1:00 to 3:30pm and siblings are welcome. The program is at Wishart Elementary School, S.D. No. 62.

We are ready, we just need you.

To find out more about our program or to register please contact:

Winnie Williams BSW

Hulitan Manager of Family Services

250-384-9466x251

[wwilliams@hulitan.ca](mailto:wwilliams@hulitan.ca)

## Outreach StrongStart

Strong Start is a free program where children aged 0-5, accompanied by a parent or caregiver, can participate in organized sessions which include play activities, circle time, snack time, and activities that help develop gross motor skills.

### A Place to Play—Beecher Bay

**Strong Start** is every Tuesday & Thursday afternoons. All Welcome!

Erin Armstrong—new coordinator!

Beecher Bay "A Place to Play"

4901B East Sooke Rd

Sooke, BC V0S 1N0

Tuesday

8:45 - 11:45 a.m.

Thursday

8:45—11:45 a.m.

Hans Helgesen Elementary

250 478-3431

### Port Renfrew Elementary - Strong Start

6633 Deering Rd,

Port Renfrew, BC V0S 1K0

Phone: 250-647-5577

Monday & Wednesday

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

## Ready, Set, Learn Events

The Aboriginal Education Department hosts Ready, Set, Learn events at our early learning

Aboriginal programs over the year. Please connect with one of the above programs to see when the next presenter assist with school readiness through cultural presentations, song, dance, literacy and a lot of fun!

Here is a link to preschool readiness tips:

[http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/early\\_learning/rsl/2009/rsl\\_english09.pdf](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/early_learning/rsl/2009/rsl_english09.pdf)



## Super Snack Ideas for School Lunches

- **Crunch & Munch** – cheese chunks and apples or applesauce
- **Power-Packed Snack** – hard boiled egg and sliced avocado, tomato or cucumber
- **Veggie Dippers** – veggies with tzatziki or hummus dip
- **Fruity Kabobs** – bite sized pieces of fruit with yogurt for dipping
- **Wrap 'n Roll** – whole wheat tortilla spread with cream cheese, sprinkled with grated carrot and sunflower seeds, rolled and cut into 2 cm (1 inch) pieces
- **Rollin' Roti** – dipped in dal
- **Breakfast Anytime** – dry whole grain cereal with unsweetened dried fruit
- **Sushi Rolls on the Go** – kappa-maki (cucumber) rolls without soy sauce

Action Schools! BC Classroom  
Healthy Eating Action Resource at  
[www.actionschoolsbc.ca](http://www.actionschoolsbc.ca)

# Aboriginal Grad Fundraiser—ticket sales ends May 24th for seven piece of artwork!

## ABORIGINAL GRADUATION RECOGNITION FUNDRAISING—

Raffle draw date May 25, 2013

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, SD NO. 62

Phone the school below to arrange purchase of tickets. \$2.00 each or three for \$5.00



**Ticket Sold out**

EMCS- 250 642-5501  
For a ticket call Kathleen Dowling.



**Ticket Sold out**

EMCS- 250 642-5501  
For a ticket call Trish Habb.



Pacific 250 474-2505  
For a ticket call Gillian Eggleton.



Belmont 250 478-5501 ext. 213  
For a ticket call Norma-Jean May.



WS Annex 250 391-0687  
For a ticket call Sherri Rose.



WS Annex 250 391-0687  
For a ticket call Loni Skelton.



Pacific 250 474-2505  
For a ticket call Laurie Gibson.



Belmont 250 478-5501 ext. 213  
For a ticket call Lynn Ferguson.



SBO 250 474-9879  
For a ticket call  
Kathleen King-Hunt.

License number 51587. Note: Actual artists not listed on this flyer.

# Elementary News

## JOHN MUIR

We would like to wish Ana Galac best wishes with her new position at EMCS and would like to **welcome Huw Griffiths**. Huw would like to extend his wishes and continue to do the great work Ana has done with the students. He is enjoying getting to know the students and staff as well as doing in class support. We are going through our second round of Discovery afternoons. This has been a hit with all the students. The students got to participate in many activities. The students got had computer graphics, pottery, jewelry making, scrap book art, gym games, bike/beach/bugs exploring, and Mother's Day sewing. The role model program has been an excellent way to bring culture awareness into the school. We had Ms. Shirley come to Strong Start; they enjoyed having her visit their classroom. Thank you to Jeff Welch-drumming, Leslie McGarry-Box of Treasures, Charlene George-for all the work she has done for all our students, and the T'sou-ke Nation Solar Tour. It has been nice to have had Port Renfrew students visit our school. John Muir and Poirier will be visiting Port Renfrew. They will be watching the *Nit-Nat Ditidaht Dancers*.

The Elders Project has been wonderful. The students have excelled the language program. The students enjoyed the drumming, singing, stories and much more. Shirley is preparing for next year's Sencoten lessons.

T'Sou-ke Nation Homework club has been great. It's nice to reconnect with students in the community. We hope you have a wonderful summer holiday!

Ms. Edie, Huw, and Ms. Shirley

## NATURE KINDERGARTEN

"My oh my " said the spider to the fly, "How time flies!" Well yesterday we had a videographer at Nature K. He followed the children for the last 2 days and interviewed the teachers and myself. He was wanting to know about the program, for general knowledge as well as for further funding. A week or so ago our Elder Shirley Alphonse came and spent a morning with the children outside. She taught the children some animal Names in Sencoten. We also buddy up with some Grade 7 students at Dunsmuir and the last time the children made cedar bookmarks in a session led by Linda Edgar. Also the children buddy up with the Grade 5 class at Sangster where the children took the older students first on a nature Scavenger Hunt and then the older student took the Kindi's on a Scavenger hunt inside the school. This was followed up with a Ravens Tale video Dog Days as well as reading some of the Raven Tales stories together. There have been Plant Specialists, Easter Egg hunts and a replica of a Big House made by Mr. Werner. He donated the house to the program. Once Miss Lauren brought her guitar to the Hibernation site and the children sang songs as she played. The children have also been learning the Coast Salish National Anthem. I bring my drum and last time we sang it to our garden patch. As we all know that plants grow much faster when accompanied by some music. Each Thursday I bring along a First Nations story and share it with the children at snack time at one of the outdoor site. We then discuss the story or legend. In the afternoons we have a time where the children have "Stations" this is when I supply some First Nations material. The children are so interested in First Nations information it is a real joy to share information with them.

The children also know all the names of

the plants and trees in the forest. They also have a good knowledge on what the Cedar tree means to our people and its varied uses. On May 23<sup>rd</sup> Jeff Webb is coming to share his drums, clackers and his music with the children. This will take place in the morning at one of the outdoor sites. I know I can hardly wait and I have kept this as a surprise for the children. I know that Jeff will be well received. In closing I want to thank all those who contribute and have been a part of this program and look forward to next year.

Murielle Lagace, AESW

## RUTH KING

Well let's get the bragging out first. Our school held a Walk a thon where the children raised \$1435.75 all together and one of our divisions raised \$605.00 alone. Next we raised \$3054.74 which was donated to the Heart and Stroke Fund through Jump Rope for Heart. Way to go Ruth King students and families! On Earth Day we took several classes to the Elves Garden just past Spencer Middle School. On our way the students in Mrs. Johnson's class and I picked up 10 grocery bags full of garbage. The children sported a glove on one hand and they were so into it I don't think we missed a thing. We also started a Suds in Tubs program in which we planted potatoes and kept the tubs in the front foyer until the plants were almost one foot high. Then we put the tubs outside and they are brought in after school each day. When we harvest the potatoes we will run a potato recipe contest. I was surprised to overhear a few students say that they had never thought where potatoes came from and how they grow. Just last week we had the opportunity to see an Acadian Ballet here  
*Cont'd to Page 7 Ruth King*



# Elementary News

*Cont'd from Page 6 Ruth King*

in the gym, the whole school participated. Oh yes and there is a Fun Fair here on May 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm to 8:00pm. The DARE Program was also a part of the Grade 6 classroom. I personally read all the students' pledges, very impressive! Our grade 4 classes presented fabulous and very informative presentations on all the provinces. Made Gingerbread men with Grade 2 classes, pancakes with the Kindi class, Bannock with the Lifeskills students and sugar cube igloo's with some students. Oh yes and very well thought out and constructed First Nations villages as well. We also had the Box of Treasures which Lesley McGarry from the VNFC brought to us. We went to the Victoria Museum as part of the program. Last but not least we are anticipating the arrival of our Butterflies. By that I mean that the caterpillars will be here soon and the children witness the cycle of life of the Butterfly. Earlier this year the children also witnessed the life cycle of the Salmon. I personally want to say that it has been once again an honor for me to be a part of these events and assisting First Nations as well as other children with their school work this year. As for Aboriginal Day we are working on 4 or 5 stations with different options for students.

*Murielle Lagace AESW*

## SASEENOS

Mrs. Symington's Kindergarten class is always bursting with excitement and learning. Since Christmas, I have implemented 'Talking Tables', a highly interactive oral language program. The students have responded well to its small-group game format. It is designed to strengthen listening abilities and build phonological skills and vocabulary; all while practicing social language skills. It is fun to explore the power of sounds, words, and ideas with these little scholars. We have done a great deal of work on identifying and generating rhyming pairs.... just ask them, I'm sure they'll tell you! Saseenos' Grade 1 classroom is a hive of activity too. I continue to support

students in literacy development activities alongside Mrs. Armstrong in the morning, and share my weekly read-aloud story together with Ms. James in the afternoon. Each week I look forward to working with this special group of learners who fascinate me with their kind-heartedness and academic progress. Highlights have included visits from our Aboriginal Education Role Models. Students have had the opportunity to drum with Jeff Welch and listen to oral stories told by Andre Spencer, Earl Claxton, and John Williams. Hych'ke to our Aboriginal Role Models! It is great to have you at Saseenos sharing your knowledge – students will value and remember such experiences!

*Marlys Denny, Ab Ed Literacy Teacher*

## SOOKE

This past year has been very busy, learning my job, my tasks, my schedule, reporting and everything else I've learned and most of all I enjoy getting to know all my students. I thoroughly enjoy my job, supporting our students in their learning. Each and every student have shown many different skills, in many different ways, through their own creativity, skills which include, computers, writing, drawing, sportsmanship, listening and speaking. Many students faced both challenges and triumphs and I am very impressed as to how well our students have done in their own individual ways this year. And it is all in thanks to the teachers. Their genuine care, the excellent effort and team work in their individual ways of teaching and doing their best in their very busy schedules for each students learning and education. Best wishes to those who will be moving on to middle school. Sooke students and staff, I look forward to seeing the rest of you again next September. Take care.

*Nadine Charles, AESW*

## DAVID CAMERON/SAVORY

I must say, it is so nice when our students are able to see the end results of all their hard work. Great job Kids! David

Cameron, has had the opportunity to have Charlene George visit with us, visiting various grades, and sharing her art with us. Kwakwakwak Artist Kevin D. Cramner visited, he shared his beautiful masks, and shared stories of his culture, both traditional and recent projects he worked on. Savory's Gr. 4,5 and 6 classes visited Sooke First Nation, and were shown their use of Solar panels in their community. The kids found it very interesting exactly how solar energy can be used. They were shown the batteries where the energy was stored for the sun. They saw an electric bicycle, and a charge station for electric cars, one thing we noted, this is the only station in Sooke that offers the use of one. They were also challenged to take a look at their own use of energy, and what they could do to reduce their usage in their own homes. They also got a chance to see Sooke Nation's canoes that are used annually by the nation to participate in Tribal Journeys. Savory now has an Aboriginal Bulletin board in their school; this is provided for art, up-coming events and material provided to us from our Aboriginal Department. Savory students were able to complete six traditional First Nation's paddles. The students were able to choose a design which was created by Charlene George, and apply and paint. They did an awesome job, and were very proud of their completed paddles. David Cameron will also be visiting the T'Sou-ke Nation, and I am sure they will enjoy the Solar Tour. On June 19<sup>th</sup> at David Cameron, we will be celebrating a school wide Aboriginal Day. Students will be in their family groups and will be invited to various workshops through-out the school. We will be hosting community members, Inuit Author-Michael Kusugak, T'Sou-ke artist Charlene George, and Leslie McGarry from the Victoria Native Friendship Center. It will be a great day to acknowledge our Aboriginal Culture, both locally and Nationally. Have a Safe and Adventure-filled summer break. Sharon Bond, Aboriginal Education Support Worker

# Elementary School News

## COLWOOD

I'm (Sharlene Chaves) getting a lot more familiar with staff, students and the school. I work in many classrooms helping students when needed. I'm enjoying my time at the school, especially when instructing Aboriginal art lessons using ovoids and U shapes or reading a story: In Miss. So's class I've been reading different little stories to the class. We were able to draw step by step a baby salmon in a egg, how cute!!! Mrs. Harris's class we have been drawing up a storm, the children just love it. They have drawn a forest scene, a deer scene, a winter scene, themselves, a pet, a rabbit scene. As well cut out hearts, clovers and a egg. They all look so good!! Mr. Bendall's class has made a paper ornament for Christmas, learning to draw a few animals then making a book mark out of one of the animals and making a Easter basket with different animals on it. They looked great!!! In Ms. Van der leeden's class, they learned to draw a Spirit bear, these looked so good!!! My lunch group has had fun colouring a Métis and a frog picture, making a snake Chinese lantern, and hanging out getting to know one another. My students liked seeing their work on our Aboriginal poster for Student Success evening. We've had some nice comments about them as well!!! I also put art work from classrooms on our school Ab. Ed bulletin board, students like that. I had fun dressing up for Pajama day!! We've had some new students in the Ab. Ed. Program, I would like to welcome them.

Sharlene Chaves, AESW



By Jenna S.



By Bryden B.

## CRYSTAL VIEW

I am having lots of fun working at the school. The staff and students are so friendly, they have helped me along when I was a bit lost in the school. I'm enjoying working in so many classrooms. I help students in the class where needed. I've been able to instruct Aboriginal art lessons using ovoids and U shapes in : Mrs. Weiss's K class they drew step by step a Penguin, so adorable, made clovers and a egg card also. Mrs. Segato's class we made a snake Chinese lantern, they look great!! Mr. Hamilton's class learned the two basic shapes and drew a turtle pond picture. Really neat looking!! Ms. Bright's class has made a winter Christmas picture and a rabbit Easter one as well. Look really good!! I had fun reading Aboriginal stories to classes during Literacy week. The lunch group had fun making paper bird ornaments, colouring Métis and frog pictures, cutting out hearts, clovers and egg cards. These students enjoyed colouring Métis flowers for our Aboriginal poster for the Student Success event which was a Métis theme. They also liked seeing their work in the poster. We had some nice comments about the poster. Mrs. Booth's class made a paper ornament, cut hearts, nice job!! Also the class did step by step animal drawings with me to put onto a paper bentwood box, wow they look great!!

Sharlene Chaves, AESW

## LAKEWOOD

Lakewood Elementary, I Sharlene Chaves am enjoying working at Lakewood, I'm getting more familiar with the school, students and staff. I work in many of the classrooms helping students where needed. I also have instructed Aboriginal art in Miss. Robillard's class. They made aboriginal snowflakes and rabbit in a egg. Mrs. Deveries's class made aboriginal Snake Chinese lanterns; they looked great! Mrs. Callbeck's class made Aboriginal egg tracers for a water colour picture. They will also look great when finished. Mrs. Stobart's class made aboriginal egg cards; these were neat looking! My lunch group has enjoyed making aboriginal paper bird ornaments, colouring a Métis and frog head pictures, as well cutting out Aboriginal hearts, clovers, egg cards and paper baskets. Lots of fun!! These students enjoyed putting together aboriginal snowman for our school poster which is a winter theme for the Student Success event. They really liked seeing their work on this poster. When this poster was being assembled, staff passing by really liked it and said nice comments about it.

Sharlene Chaves, AESW



By Freyja L.

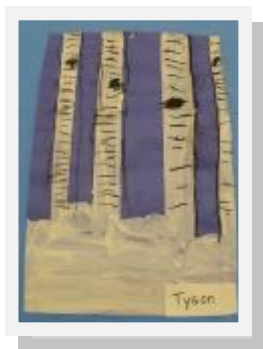


# Elementary School News

## MILLSTREAM

Millstream Elementary, I'm getting more familiar with the school, students, staff and enjoy working at this school. I work in many classrooms helping students with their work when needed, lots of fun!! I've done some Aboriginal art work using ovoids and U shapes in: Ms. King's Gr 1/2 class I had students draw step by step with me a bat. They looked so cute!! Mrs. Sahota / Mrs. King's Gr 2/3 class draw a picture of themselves using the two shapes. They turned out so well!!! Madam Donnelly's K class drew step by step rabbit in a egg. They are so adorable! Ms. Van Dyk's Gr. 3/4 class drew a bird, made a Chinese snake lantern, and a heart. Lots of fun. Mrs. King's Gr. 4/5 class painted the two shapes onto mini paddles. Look good!!! Also they made Aboriginal egg cards and a rabbit picture. Look good!! Mr. Mourner and Ms. Van Dyk's class are making Pysanky eggs, lots of fun.. My lunch group have enjoyed making Aboriginal paper bird and tree ornaments, snowflakes, colouring Métis/frog heads, hearts, clovers, an egg card and a basket. So much fun!!! They also had fun making rock shapes out of paper to build a Inukshuk for our student success poster. Students really like seeing their work on the poster. We had some great comments from staff and students about this poster. One of my Gr 6 student was excited to see me at the Aboriginal Student Success event. He introduced me to his mom, they mentioned they had enjoyed themselves there.

Sharlene Chaves, AESW



## WILLWAY

I am happy to work with familiar staff, students and school. I enjoy working in classes helping students where needed. I've been able to instruct Aboriginal art lessons using ovoids and U shapes in: Ms. Rostad's Gr.1 class, we drew a pumpkin and a deer, they were so cute!! Mrs. Orchard's Gr.1/2 class have made cut out clovers. They were interesting. Ms. Bodman's Gr.2/3 class made snowflakes, clover cut outs and created a rabbit picture in a egg. They look great!! Mr. Walter's Gr.4 class has made Jack o lanterns, a spider, build a snowman, deer/tree ornament, a Chinese snake lantern and a cool looking paper basket with animals on the sides for Easter. Mr. Daniel's Gr.4/5 class drew creatures to do with a pond and put them onto a paper bentwood box. They looked great!! Mr. Dodd's Gr 5/6 class has drawn a turkey picture, a paper snowman snow globe, snowflakes, water color forest scene, egg cards and a water color egg picture. They all look so great!! My lunch group have enjoyed coloring a Métis and frog pictures, making water color pumpkins or Jack o lanterns, snowflakes, hearts, clover and egg card cut outs. What fun!! These students had fun making insects for our poster which was a spring theme for the Aboriginal Student Success evening. Students liked seeing their work on the poster. Nice comments were said about the poster. I also enjoyed dressing up for Twin day, a lot of fun.

Sharlene Chaves, AESW



## HANS HELGESEN

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Brandy Elliott. I am the Aboriginal Support Worker/English as a Second Dialect Support Worker at Hans Helgesen Elementary. My aboriginal ancestry comes from the Squamish Nation as well as T'sartlip Nation in West Saanich. I have been working at Hans Helgesen since January. My focus has been working with teachers and supporting students in all areas of the curriculum within the classroom.

The Student Success Night in February at Spencer Middle School was very successful. I would like to acknowledge Russ Chipps, Chief of Scia'new Nation, for his presence at the Student Success Night. I would also like to acknowledge Hans Helgesen's Principal, Mrs. Tonnesen, for her support on this special night. There have been many exciting activities going on at Hans Helgesen Elementary. Our school took part in the *Pennies for Patients* fundraiser in support of Blood Cancers. We had many "fun" days raising money for this cause. The finale for students was a real BRINKS truck coming to collect the money our school had raised. The total amount raised was \$2645.90. Other activities students and teachers participated in were; Principal for a Day, Movie Day, and Hat Day. The winning class who raised the most money received a sundae party; congratulations to the grade 4/5's! Our Grade 1 class had the exciting experience of hatching salmon eggs and releasing them back into Gold Stream River. Students were able to watch and witness the salmon's cycle of life. Both kindergarten classes have recently hatched chick and duck eggs. The students are very excited. 25 chickens and 9 ducklings hatched. The ducklings were introduced to swimming at just two days old! We are honored to have aboriginal role models coming into our school. Earlier this year, our grade 3 cont'd on Page 9 Hans Helgesen

## Elementary News

Cont'd from Page 9  
class had a visit from Mr. Murray Campbell. Mr. Campbell taught the class how to make and paint their own individual paddles. During the month of May, Mrs. Allis Sawyer will be taking the grade 6 class on a plant walk. Mrs. Sawyer will also be teaching an art project with our grade 3 and 4's. Thank you for these few moments to share with you what is going on in our school and our department. Thank you -Hych'ka  
*Brandy Elliott, Aboriginal Education Support Worker/ESD Support Worker*

### ECOLE POIRIER

Hi my name is Melinda, the new Aboriginal Education support worker at Poirier. It is such an awesome opportunity to work at a wonderful school such as Poirier! The staff has been very helpful introducing me to the students and making me feel welcome. It's been a busy start with getting to know the students in the classroom and getting culture club going. Getting to know the students and the students getting to know me has its challenges but to assist and encourage students in achieving their goals or knowing the potential they have is such a blessing. First big event was student success day held in February at Spencer Middle was a success. A lot of proud parents came out to show their support for their talented children. A BIG THANK YOU to the teachers for helping put together students work to show their achievements/accomplishments. I could have not done it without the teachers work and support. We had guest speakers for the grade 4 classes. Elder, Earl Claxton and John Williams presented some cedar uses, and tools used for carving things such as a canoe. Other beautiful items presented were things used for ceremonial. John told oral story telling which have some teachings in a story such listening, discipline etc. The students were quite engaged with both presenters and full of

one hundred and one questions! Culture club was a slow start but now it is busy, busy! I have a lot of students interested in joining culture club which is awesome! I see the students having fun and being creative in doing arts and crafts. Kleco Kleco Poirier for the warm welcome!  
*Melinda Zelada , Aboriginal Education Support Worker*

### WISHART

Hello everyone, well we are winding down with another school year. Where did the time go? It was my first year here at Wishart elementary, all the students and staff have been just so welcoming. The atmosphere here is very friendly. Getting to know everyone was just so easy. My first year here at Wishart I supported the students with their academics and brought in Aboriginal role models to come in and talk about, show us and demonstrate their culture.

For academic support I went to each student's classroom. I helped them with their language arts, reading, math, science, social studies, English, and computer lab. Helping them I felt the students sense of accomplishment at the end of the assignment. Some of the students took part in the running program. One student was a peer helper throughout the year, the grade six classroom also did the transition phase of going on to middle school. Throughout the year I have gotten Aboriginal role models to come into the school and go to certain classes. The first role model came to the grade three, four class and showed the students how to make aboriginal badges for themselves, they were so happy and proud of what they made. Another role model also came to this class and talked about the Scia'new territory (which the school is on) and their culture. She also showed the students aboriginal artifacts such as cedar roses, a mask, a doll, a raven figure, and a few more. All of which were made by people of Scia'new. The teacher would like to make a welcome sign for her classroom

welcoming students, parents and staff to the traditional territory. Both the grade two classes got to hear about how the cedar tree is used culturally by the Tsawot First Nation, and they got to hear legend storytelling from a role model who is also from Tsawot and the Ahousaht First Nation. The grade one class got to not only see a drum presentation, they were given the opportunity to use a traditional drum, and the role model from T'Sou-ke also explained how it was made. The grade six class was told about the Metis culture in two classroom sittings. During the second session they got to make a bracelet with the Metis colors which consist of red, blue, white, and black. They along with the grade five class took a tour of the T'Sou-ke solar program out on the T'Sou-ke traditional territory. They learned how to conserve energy, and the different ways how to use solar energy. Another role model who does storytelling came to the school to tell stories to the grade three classroom, His stories were about discipline. In the future we have more role models set to come in, and I'm looking forward to seeing them work with the students.

### SANGSTER

Here we are almost near the end of the school year. Wow how time flies when one is having fun. Two years at Sangster, and working with the students individually in the class room or as a group was a learning experience for not only the students but for me as well. I provided academic support to the students while they were in class. I helped them with their language arts, math, science, social studies, reading and writing assignments. The students have been successful with their school work. Here at Sangster the students have taken part in the Dare program, the shoreline cleanup with the community. They have been involved with the school team sport (basketball). The grade six students visited  
*Cont'd Page 11 Sangster*

# Elementary School News

*Cont'd from Page 10—Sangster*

Dunsmuir middle school as part of their transition phase of going there next year. Throughout the school year I have brought in aboriginal role models to come in to show us what they have learned about their culture and to share them with us. The grade six students have learned how to make dream catchers. The grade four and five class learned about the Scia'new (Beecher Bay) First Nation culture. The whole school also heard a performance from Ed Peekeekoot. The grade one class learned about the traditional drum from a role model who was from the T'Sou-ke Nation, he also got them to beat along with a song he played for them. Another role model told us what his nation culturally uses the cedar tree for, and how they go about getting it. The students were amazed at how many different things one can get out of the cedar tree. The other grade two class learned about the cedar tree and heard some legend stories. The grade four five and six class got a tour of the T'Sou-ke solar project that they have out on their traditional territory. The nature Kindergarten class did so much throughout the year too; Murielle (the other Aboriginal Education Support Worker) worked with these students. In the very near future I have even more Aboriginal roles set to come in and show us the teachings they have learned as they grew up throughout the years. The grade four and five class will be taking part in the Box of Treasures program with the museum and Leslie McGarry from the Victoria Native Friendship Center. Each of the students was amazed with each and every role model that came into Sangster Elementary. With the school year nearing an end I wish everyone at Sangster a happy and safe summer! Klecko klecko (thank you) Derrick

## PORT RENREW ELEMENTARY



May has been so beautiful, which has been great for us at Port Renfrew Elementary as we have been spending at least one afternoon a week in our outdoor learning area. The students have each adopted a tree or plant to study and care for. We have also been identifying local native plants such as cedar, salal, huckleberry, sword fern, and yew. We were fortunate enough to have the Go Wild! Team from the Sierra Club come out to teach the kids about products made from local plants. To continue with our theme of outdoor education and appreciation for all that we rely on in nature, we made a visit to Goldstream Park to learn about the estuary and local insects. The students got to catch their own bugs to look at with the microscope and to find fish bones in the mud!

Students are using these great outdoor experiences as a source of inspiration for their classroom writing and oral language assignments and the personal connections they are making really show through in their work. I continue to support students with their literacy development using Aboriginal picture books that tie in with monthly themes. These themes follow the Saanich Year as much as possible. We also practice oral language skills using Moe the Mouse, Talking Tables, and Power Speak.

Elizabeth Dick comes several times a month to work with the students on cedar weaving projects. They are currently finishing cedar mats that they are going to use as backdrops for school pictures. We also spend time at the Pacheedaht community once a week to read with family members. Hopefully, plans will come together so that we can join the community for cedar stripping. The

students loved it last year! Community Club has been a great opportunity for students, staff and family members to connect. Last month, the theme was spring and everybody planted strawberries together. The elementary school shared the Ditidaht words for spring and planting with their families.

Coming up this month, student performers from Ditidaht Community School are coming to dance, drum and sing for our students, as well as the grade 4 students from John Muir and Poirier Elementary Schools. We are so excited to have them and to learn from them. These students have been learning the Ditidaht language throughout their schooling, so I'm sure they will have lots to teach us. We will also be going to the Royal British Columbia Museum and the Victoria Native Friendship Center to take part in the Box of Treasures program. A very busy time of year, but very exciting and rich learning opportunities.

Lisa Stuart, Teacher  
Port Renfrew Elementary



## HAPPY VALLEY

All year Happy Valley has been buzzing with activities for their upcoming centennial celebration. Music from different decades has been played on the announcements. The students would get up in their classes and dance, even the teachers showed their moves! Way to dance Mrs. Markle! There was a 70's dance at lunch and a group of students demonstrated the hand jive. Everyone was joining in. A small group of students did  
*Cont'd to Page 12 Happy Valley*



## Elementary School News

*Cont'd Page 11 Happy Valley*  
an amazing job showing their dancing abilities. All the classes have been working on different projects from display boards to comparing what the school yard looked like to poetry. The history of Happy Valley from the opening in 1912 of the one room school house with one teacher and all the grades together. To 1960 Happy Valley now had six classrooms, a gym, library and a playground. The 2004 fire that saddened a community to the reopening in 2007 of the new beautiful school. Every stage of the school's history will be told in one form or another. The 100 year community committee, staff, students have worked so hard in making Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> a huge success. Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> starts off the celebration with a family oriented event at the Langford Legion with Centennial cake, historical memorabilia displays, live music from a popular local band. Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> a free family oriented event at Happy Valley Elementary. There will be centennial cake, tea, hotdog BBQ, games, open house, and student led tours of the school, and displays the staff and students have been working so hard on. For the month of May the intermediate grades will be doing track and field in the afternoons. Jump Rope for Heart was a huge event at the school. Different stations were set up in the gym for the students to participate in. Fun was had by all! As the school year draws to a close I would like to thank all the guest speakers we

have invited into the school Earl Claxton Jr., John Bradley Williams and Pakki Chipps for coming in and sharing their knowledge and oral stories. Jeff Welch for his drumming presentation it was wonderful to see the students use the drums, clackers and shakers. Alice, and her helpers for coming in and making dream catchers. Thank you all for sharing your knowledge with our school and students and allowing them to experience Aboriginal ways of knowing. As my first year at Happy Valley and John Stubbs draws to a close I would like to thank everyone for making me feel so welcome. I hope I will be part of your school next year and through my year of learning able to bring more activities and role models to your school. I would also like to take a minute and wish the grade 6 students all the best in grade 7 at their new schools.

*Rosalind Wilkinson AESW*



### JOHN STUBBS

We have been very busy at John Stubbs this term. We started with the middle school students attending Me to We, Sacred Circle at T'Sou-ke nation. We were joined by our fellow students from SD 62 middle schools, Rob and Andrea from Me to We, and the ABED staff. We had special help from Michelle Thut, Charlene George, Earl Claxton Jr., John Bradley Williams and Andrew Spencer

and other members of the community. It also was an honor for are group to be able to be a part of the Elder's Lunch. We all came together and helped plan, "Celebration of Aboriginal Student Success" held on February 27 at Spencer Middle School. The event was a huge success! Some of the ABED students from John Stubbs middle school went a step further and planned a penny drive for the school. With help from Andrea from Me to We the pennies we collected went to Free the Children's clean water project. It was the student's idea to hold a pizza party for the winning class and tell the story of "Raven Steals the Sun". Congratulations to Mrs. Walti's grade one class for collecting the most pennies! A big thank-you to everyone who donated their pennies, together we create change! Another project we our working on with some of the middle school student's grade 6-8 is drum making. With help from Mr. Royal, woodworking skills and Charlene George knowledge, the students were able to make their own drum rings. This was great for the students to learn, cutting the wood, joining the 12 pieced they had to cut with LOTS of glue, sanding, and sealing the drum ring. Then we were able to purchase an Elk hide and the students learned to cut the drum skins right from the large Elk hide. After many soakings we all completed punching the holes in our hide. Next we learned to string our

*Cont'd Page 14 John Stubbs*



# Middle School News

## DUNSMUIR

Dunsmuir Middle School on  
SCI'A'NEW territory

The NINENE Moon, in January, began in high-energy with the Me-to-We Sacred Circle program at T'Sou-ke Nation. Students were engaged in community and leadership building activities to plan elements of the Celebration of Student Success Night. Big thanks to the Me-to-We leaders Rob and Andrea for their hard work in facilitating the workshop. Dunsmuir Me-to-We students Nadya C., Brooklyn P., Johnadam P., Monica O., Dakota N., Edward P., and Jesse C. worked together to create a display table to represent the local territories that we work, live, and play on. In addition, AESW Derrick Titian collected unique cultural carvings, drums, and regalia that were on display. Mr. Carr created a slideshow of images showcasing the beauty of all the lands. During the WEXES moon, it was a busy time at Dunsmuir. In the community, many of our Aboriginal students had their wonderful artwork on display at UVic's art gallery. Mr. Carr went with students Mike C., Ethan Z., and Rudy C. out to the opening night where they were able to share their amazing artistic talents with the community. In the classroom, Dunsmuir was privileged to have Earl Claxton Jr. and John-Bradley Williams share their knowledge on traditional WSANEC Bentwood Boxes to Mr. Shaw's Woodwork 9 class. On February 28<sup>th</sup>, Student Success Night was hosted at Spencer Middle School and it was an action packed family event. The Dunsmuir students enjoyed listening to hip-hop group *New Addiction* perform two outstanding sets. Families enjoyed smudging, the dinner, and the talented student performances. Dunsmuir talent was showcased by students Cameron W., Kiel M., and Karsten B. who performed on the saxophone, as well as the READ Society Capturing Stories new trailer for

their upcoming movie *Keeping Hope Alive*, directed by Dano Underwood.

The PEXSISEN moon brought many guests to Dunsmuir to share their knowledge. Trevor Day, the Aboriginal Student Liaison of Camosun College, presented opportunities for Aboriginal Students in post-secondary programs, as well as planning courses in high school. Congratulations to Mike C. and Ghislaine C. for winning the prizes of a \$10 Subway gift card and a Camosun College travel mug. There was a special lunchtime workshop about hands-on mathematics given by Alejandro Erickson and his fiancée, Kassia of GeoBurst and Math Catcher. Students were very engaged by interactive exercises that helped them understand math physically rather than just on paper. Students who participated enjoyed a pizza lunch and a unique opportunity to work with their peers.

The SXÁNEL moon has been a moon of celebration of success. Dunsmuir hosted Arts & Culture Night on April 16th where aboriginal student artwork was on display, bannock was fried, storytelling was shared, local territories were acknowledged, and photos from events were showcased in a slideshow.

Families and students enjoyed listening with Elder Shirley Alphonse and Andre Spencer in a talking circle. The All Nations Room hosted a special lunch to celebrate the SXÁNEL moon. Hych'ka to Mrs. Duarte for providing the lunch and dessert; students enjoyed eating together and Mike C. of SCI'A'NEW nation acknowledged the territory. The READ Society Capturing Stories project began filming their new project titled *Keeping Hope Alive*, a story about bullying during the 21<sup>st</sup> century- a world immersed in fast spreading information via technology. Students were very busy memorizing lines, designing sets, and getting their make-up done in some very long filming days. Dano Underwood, the mastermind of this project, has worked extremely hard mentoring 10

students through a very complex film project that has given them real-world experience of life on a movie set. Derrick Titian went with READ Society students to the Cowichan Film Festival in Duncan where the *Capturing Stories* project from last year won "Best Documentary" and Kira L. won a scholarship to the Gulf Island Film and TV school this summer. Big congratulations to director/producer Dano Underwood, the students Mike C., Rudy C., Kira L., Karsten B., Aiden C., Trent H., Jordan H., Jeremy B., Tina T., Alison C., and school staff Derrick Titian and Justine Durrant.

Our current moon, PENAWEN, has begun with drum making. Charlene George has mentored a group of aboriginal and non-aboriginal students through a very careful, detailed and spiritual process where they must remain very focused on their work. Students are learning about how a healthy mind can be seen in the finished piece of work. During Lunch, Dr. Allis Sawyer (Pakki Chippis) visited us to share stories and a collection of SCI'A'NEW carvings, and Kear Porttis, Métis, shared stories about growing up and going to University. Alice Charlie came to mentor Mrs. Larson's class in creating beautiful dream catchers. Linda Ermineksin taught a cedar weaving class to Mr. May's Grade 7 class and Nature Kindergarten. The Grade 7's mentored and shared their learning by mentoring the Nature Kindergarten students to create some beautiful cedar bookmarks. We are looking forward to many aboriginal role-models this moon and in our final moon of the school year, CENTEKI. Good luck to all of our students moving on to high-school!

Warm Regards - Hych'ka -HÍSWŨKE - Kleco Kleco - Gilakas'la - Marsee- All our relations, Mr. Jon Carr & Derrick Titian, Aboriginal Education Team at Dunsmuir Middle School



## Elementary & Middle School News—cont'd

*Cont'd from Page 12*

*John Stubbs*

drums, some learned how to string very well! Charlene has now started helping us to create art that we are transferring to our drums. The next step is painting. The art work that Charlene has helped the students create is beyond all of our expectations. The students are so proud! I am so proud of the student's commitment to this project. It has been done on their lunch hour and with the support of their teachers they missed a few classes. To finish off this project I am also hoping to have someone from the community in to teach the students drumming. I would like to personally

thank Charlene for all her help from start to finish in making our drums, Charlene your knowledge and patience is a rare gift, thank-you. Also I would like to thank Earl Claxton, Jr., John Bradley Williams, Pakki Chipps, Lesile McGarry and the Box of Treasures Program. Earl, John and Pakki have all brought in items and talked to the students about their traditional uses, as well as sharing their wonderful oral stories. Lesile came in to two of the classes and did an introduction to First Nations. The second section is a visit to the Royal BC Museum where she guided us through the First People's Exhibit. The final session is an art project with each class, we made Potlatch Pouches..

Thank-you all for sharing your knowledge with our school and students and allowing them to experience Aboriginal ways of knowing. We have also managed to do some stories and art projects in some classes. I would like to take a minute and wish all the grade 8 students all the best as they start high school next year. As my first year draws to an end I would like to thank the ABED staff, school staff, and students for making this year so wonderful. I hope to be part of your school next year.

*Rosalind Wilkinson*

*Aboriginal Education Support Worker*

### Dunsmuir Photo Gallery



Earl Claxton and John Williams



Drum Making



Math is fun!



Arts and Culture night at Dunsmuir



UVic Art Gallery

# Middle School News

## JOURNEY

Wow, where has the time gone this year! We are already in May! Life at Journey is always busy, but fun! We currently have an acting principal, Bryan Johnson. He started just before Christmas and has been running since. We will be having Laurie Szadkowski as our new principal for next year. Mrs. Szadkowski taught at Journey before she became a principal. We also have a practicum education support worker student from Camosun, Lacey. She has been working in grade 6 classrooms on Thursdays and Fridays since January. She will be here Tuesday through Friday for May and June. Lisa Stuart has also been added to the team as of January. She works with our Pacheedaht students on Tuesdays and Thursdays. January we had our Me to We group

working together with the other middle schools with helping to create our Aboriginal Student Success Night. We had two days at T'Sou-ke Band Hall where they learned to be leaders and also listen to one another's ideas. The Journey girls worked hard getting everything ready for the early learning table and games for the night. We also had Kiana S. help co-host the night with Kathleen King-Hunt.

Dano Underwood from READ Society has been working with a group of boys with story writing and putting it into a film. The theme is Heroes. The boys have learned about storyboarding, lighting, sound, interviewing, a little bit of acting, and now they are currently editing.

We are now in the last term of the school year. May and June are busy months! We are working with EMCS

with grade 8 transitions and also with grade 5's coming to visit Journey during Exploratory time. Beginning of May is the school wide reading assessment where every student takes part. We have our annual Cystic Fibrosis Fundraising in the middle of the month. Then we enter June with fieldtrips!

We will be ending the year on June 21<sup>st</sup> with our year-end assembly where all families are welcome to attend. We have Shirley Alphonse doing a traditional welcome and to acknowledge National Aboriginal Day. Then the students will enjoy the year-end BBQ! A great way to start summer!

Michelle Wolf, Aboriginal Education Support Worker

Patti Christianson, Aboriginal Literacy Support Teacher/ESD



*Michelle read The Elders Are Watching by David Bouchard to Division 9. We then had a class discussion on sustainability and what is important to them to sustain for the future generations. The students did a wonderful job with presenting their*

## Middle School News

### SPENCER

Greetings from the Spencer Aboriginal Education staff! We have had a great and busy year at Spencer thus far, filled with lots of activities, art, and role models. To start off, we would like to mention that earlier this year we said, "Farewell," to our Aboriginal Literacy Teacher, Huw Griffiths. We wish Huw the best of luck as he moves on into an Aboriginal teaching position in the elementary schools. On that note, we would like to welcome our two new teachers who have joined the Spencer Aboriginal Education team: Gillian Eggleton and Erin Wood.

The *Me to We* group has had a very successful year, demonstrating exemplary commitment to the school and global communities and leading an awesome Student Success Night. *Me to We* has also been hosting bake sales throughout the year to raise money for clean

water in Kenya, as a way to give back to the global community. We are also proud of Spencer's Green Team who works very hard to care for our environment by running a recycling program at Spencer. Each week the students are responsible for collecting and sorting all paper recycling as well as the bottles and cans in the school. This activity displays commitment to the environment as well as great leadership within the school. We have welcomed Charlene George into the All Nations Room throughout the year to work on various projects such as making drums and hand-made pouches that were given out at Student Success Night. In terms of increasing Aboriginal Awareness we have two initiatives on the go: our monthly Speaker's Luncheons and our Aboriginal Awareness Grade 7 Exploratory class. On the last Wednesday of every month, we have been fortunate to host a variety of Aboriginal Role Models to the All Nations Rooms to speak to a group of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students. This spring we have hosted Kevin

Cramner who shared about the cultural significance of Kwakwaka'wakw artistic traditions. We also had Virgil Sampson come in to share motivational stories with the students.

The grade seven Aboriginal Awareness Exploratory class has continued to support our district-wide goal of increasing "awareness and understanding of Aboriginal ways of knowing in both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students," through interactive study of, and participation in, traditional Aboriginal storytelling circles, art projects, song circles, and language learning. This class provides a great opportunity to invite all students into the All Nations Room during their first year at Spencer to strengthen our ties with the school community.

In closing, we would like to wish all of our Grade 9 students who are moving on to new schools next year, good luck! We will miss you!

We hope everyone has a safe and happy summer!

*Dennis, Gillian and Erin*



Spencer luncheon

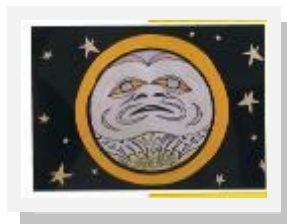


Spencer drums



# Middle School News

## CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS NIGHT EVENT



Celebrating Student Success 'Wexes' —a great night presented by Me to We—Sacred Circle Youth, SD62 Aboriginal Committee: Michelle, Tara, Shirley, Derrick, Jon, Huw, Dennis, Erin, Michelle W, Patti, Andrea, Rob, Rosalind.

# Elementary ESD News– con’t

## RUTH KING

I walked into Ruth King Elementary School late in the semester as the new English Skills Development worker. I was nervous and a little anxious when I walked into my first classroom, not knowing what to expect. I really didn't have anything to worry about. Class by class I met and eventually got to know all of my new students. I met shy, quiet students who have learned to speak up and raise their hands to answer their teacher's question. I see other students who have settled in and become the best they can be in their learning. I had many students who faced challenges while learning and how their faces just lit up when they finally understood what they were being taught and completed an assignment. I would like to thank the teachers for their patience and caring in teaching the students, always preparing extra support work in their already busy schedules for their students who are facing challenges in learning their school subjects. I wish all Ruth King Elementary students a safe and happy summer holiday. Best wishes to those who will be moving on to middle school. Ruth King students and staff, I look forward to seeing you all again next September for the 2013/14 school year. Take

care.

*Nadine Charles, ESD Support Worker*

## SCHOOL ELEMENTARY– E.S.D.

WOW! This year has flown by. I first started my role in the District 62 in February of 2012, so this school year has been my first full school year. I have had a really amazing time working with all the students and staff in the seven schools I work in. A highlight for me this year was the Celebrating Student Success event at the end of February. It was great to see all the families, students, and school staff who attended! My favorite part of the event was meal time – but I swear it wasn't because of the great food! During the dinner, I had a great opportunity to meet some of the parents and other family members of students I work with. It was also a great to spend some time with the fantastic people in the AbEd department, most of who I only get to see briefly every few months. I'm looking forward to the all of the end of year excitement, and I am glad to be here to help our students finish



the year on a high note.

*Sam Peekeekoot, ESD Support Worker*

## SCHOOL ELEMENTARY– E.S.D.

The New Year began with a change for both Ana and me. Ana moved to EMCS and I left Spencer to take over the ESD role at the 7 elementary schools Ana serviced (Sooke, David Cameron, Poirier, Saseenos, John Muir, Hans Helgesen & Ruth King). While no move is completely smooth, the hard work Ana put in made this one quite simple.

Working with grade 1-5 students has been a challenging yet rewarding experience and one that I have thoroughly enjoyed. Hearing grade 1's describe the reading strategies that they are using or seeing a reluctant writer proud of what they produce is always positive feedback for our program. A big thank you to Sam, Nadine & Brandy, the ESD support workers who are working hard to ensure the elementary schools I can't get to weekly are well serviced. I must also say a massive thank you to Marlys who has given me pointers along the way and been a great support.

Enjoy your summer breaks and see you all next year!

*Huw Griffiths*



Journey Middle School Exploratory– Pacheedaht Nation Cedar





## Secondary News

## BELMONT

## THE BELMONT “ABORIGINAL” BUGLE

We've been busy here at Belmont these few months. Now we are getting ready for Aboriginal Grad on May 25, 2013. We have had 44 classes benefit from our role model program. We have had a wide variety of subject have been covered this last school year, for instance: First Nations governance, traditional plants, First Nations art, the "Idle No More" issues and facts, Historical/Modern day Métis information, just to name a few. Our role models are terrific and have shared their knowledge, wholeheartedly, with those students, both Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal, who were fortunate enough to be in those classes. THANK YOU to our wonderful teachers, here at Belmont, who dug right in to provide the students with the, first hand, expertise our role models can provide. Our students have also benefited from various, Aboriginal focused, field trips like:

T'Sou-ke Nation's Solar Energy Project. Aboriginal Career Fair at the Victoria Native Friendship Center. UVIC tour including an Amazing Race scavenger hunt. Royal BC Museum tour with, the awesome, Leslie McGarry. Leslie also comes to the classroom and does a presentation before and after the visit. We have 106 awesome students in the Aboriginal group at Belmont, some who are busily contributing to communities and others who are busy doing their everyday stuff. It's such a pleasure to see their bright and shiny faces every day.

We have 16 Aboriginal students (1 grade 9, 6 grade 10's, 5 grade 11's and 4 grade 12's) on the Honor Roll - these student's GPA (grade point

average) must range from 3.00 to 3.99, and 2 Aboriginal students (1 grade 10 and 1 grade 12) on the Principals Honor Roll- to be on the Principals Honor Roll these student's GPA's must be 4.00 out of 4.00. Awesome! Lets hear some applause. Best wishes, compliments, felicitations, 'hear-hear', good going, good wishes, GREAT WORK! For those of you who like statistics: there are 10 females and 8 males. A few of our students had their work in the "Roots" Annual Student Fine Art Show and Sale at Royal Roads. This event is sponsored by the Sooke School District. It was a terrific opportunity to demonstrate how very talented they are. Very Impressive. English First Peoples, Grade 10 and 11/12, is being offered at Belmont again next year. The interest is exciting for our department. This past term was the first time English First Peoples has been offered, here at Belmont. The interest next year is because some of our magnificent, Aboriginal Teachers, have been out in the middle schools and secondary schools informing the students about our program. The students remembered it therefore; they signed up for it.

Terrrrriiffffccccc

Our Grads are getting ready to venture out on their own soon, but the venturing doesn't usually happen without the May/June panic. We try to calm them down, support their educational needs and watch as they take their, well deserved, walk to receive their diploma. We wish them the very best and hope all their wishes and dreams come true. Take a look at the fun we had this year.

Lynn Ferguson , AESW and  
Norma-Jean May, Abed/ESD Teacher



T'Sou-ke Solar Energy



Moccasin making workshop



UVic Tour

## Secondary News

### EMCS

It is hard to believe that we are almost through another school year. Trish McNabb and I have been busy with the Aboriginal students at Edward Milne Community School. It is amazing to think that one in six students here are Aboriginal. We have been focusing on getting work complete and getting our potential graduates on track, but we also manage to have a lot of fun as well. We have had some amazing field trips to both Camosun College as well as the University of Victoria. We also participated in an amazing career fair at the Victoria Native Friendship center. Students were able to use these opportunities to plan for future education and careers, which in turn help them to decide on potential courses here at Edward Milne Community School.

We have some amazing mentors here at our school, who are helping students who are struggling with math and science, they are: Trystan Dunn-Jones, Jessica Smyth, Gabrielle Nielsen, and Tyler Johnson Grant. This mentorship program is sponsored by the University of British Columbia's Pacific Institute for Math and Science. Our school has embraced the Aboriginal Role Model program. Classes have participated in the T'Sou-ke solar tour, presentations by Eric Wong, Richard Van Camp, as well as The Box of Treasures presented by Leslie McGarry at the Victoria Native Friendship Center. Charlene George gave a walking tour of indigenous plants, and the Métis Society is coming in this month to do presentations as well. It is wonderful to see so many influential people

connecting with our students.

Transitions will be starting soon with the grade eight classes from Journey Middle School, we always try to make them feel positive and excited about starting high school, which for many can be a stressful process. On the topic of transitions, we will also be transitioning out our graduates who will be off finding new adventures and opportunities. We are all looking forward to our Aboriginal Recognition Ceremony May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Trish and I would like to wish all of our families a happy and safe summer, we hope you relax and recharge and we can't wait to see our students in the fall. Please contact us if you have concerns about your children.

Kathryn Sudlow  
Aboriginal Support Teacher  
Trish McNabb  
Aboriginal Education Support Worker



UVic Fieldtrip—EMCS



UVic Fieldtrip—EMCS



Excerpt from Metchosin Muse: May 2013

### PACIFIC & MTC

MTC has also been working on an art piece with Jennifer Kivari that will be submitted for the *Roots Sooke School District Fine Art Show*. The theme is "The Families at MTC". Students have loved being a part of this project and have learned the connection between their home and school, the people that influence their lives, as well as given students a strong sense of belonging.

Gillian Eggleton, ESD Teacher

Cont'd to Page 21 Pacific & MTC



MTC Run Photo



# Secondary School News

## PACIFIC



Pacific drums and paddles

Hello from Pacific Secondary Main Campus! It has been a very successful and busy year over here!! We have been working on many projects at Pacific. Students have been working on a beautiful button blanket in Blair's art class, that when completed, it will be hung in the front foyer of Pacific, for all to see when entering our school. In Sean's grad cohort students have been making paddles and later this spring we will be taking them on a canoe trip where they

will get to use the paddles they made. Thank you Chief Russ Chipps for all your help with implementing this project; we look forward to our time out in the canoe with you! We were also lucky enough to have Charlene George come in and teach our grad cohort how to make drums. This process was a really fun and unique experience as students and school staff all participated in the project together. In addition to art projects, we also had the opportunity to take a few of our students on a day-long tour of both campuses of Camosun College. Thank you to Camosun College for this opportunity. Students enjoyed learning about the different programs and services that are available to them, post-graduation. With grad on the horizon, students are starting to buzz around the school in anticipation and excitement not only for the Aboriginal Graduation Recognition Ceremony at Camosun but also for the future that awaits them after high school. We are so proud of the progress all of our students have made this year and although it will be sad to see them go, it is exciting to watch them embark on this new chapter of their life. Congratulations and Good Luck Grads of 2013!

## MTC

Greetings from MTC! We have been busier than ever with guest speakers and art projects out at MTC this winter/spring. Dayna's Grade 9 literacy class had the opportunity to make drums, with the generous guidance and assistance of Charlene George. Students loved this activity and had the chance to display their work at Celebrating Student Success night. We also had

Christine Donaldson from the Métis Nation of Greater Victoria come to the Grade 10 Social Studies Class to give a presentation on Métis history and culture. A couple of our grade 11 students had the chance to attend the Aboriginal Career Fair at the Victoria Native Friendship Centre. This was a great opportunity for them to start thinking about careers and post-secondary school. Finally, we would like to extend big congratulations to the MTC Powertools Running team who successfully completed the Times Colonist 10km race on April 28<sup>th</sup>. It was great to see our students take on such a challenge and represent our program and school in such a positive way to the greater community. Way to go!

## PACIFIC ED WEST

Pacific Ed. West has been busier than ever as we move closer to the end of the year and graduation. Laurie has had the chance to work with Ed. West students, teaching them how to make scarves. This has been an ongoing project for a couple months and allows the students to take a break from their academic courses and learn more about Aboriginal art and culture. Ed. West students have continued to work with Sooke Elementary students, helping them learn how to read. Thank you to these Ed. West students for being great role models in the community and our schools! Lastly, as grad, gets closers, our grade 12 students and adult grad students are busy finishing up course work and preparing for final exams. We are so happy to see the progress these students have made and look forward to recognizing their hard work as part of the Aboriginal Graduation Recognition Ceremony this spring. Congratulations and Good luck to all students! We hope you all have a fun and safe summer!

Laurie Gibson, AESW and  
Gillian Eggleton, ESD Teacher  
Cont'd to Page 20 Pacific & MTC

## Secondary School News

### WESTSHORE CENTRE FOR LEARNING AND TRAINING

#### ÍY SCÍÁCEL (Good Day) From Westshore

So hard to believe how fast this year is going! Both locations have continued to be incredibly busy. With workshops, field trips, meeting writers, Idle No More, prepping for grad and of course school. We created a new website for the Graduation Program called Moccasin Telegraph it can be viewed at [www.moccasintelegraph.staff.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.moccasintelegraph.staff.sd62.bc.ca). It shows what a fantastic program we have, and what a positive environment we get to work in. Several students had the opportunity to go to UVIC to view a screening of Smoke Signals and meet actors Evan Adams and Gary Farmer from the movie.

We welcomed Paul Block as our new principal after Daphne Churchill retired. He's done a fantastic job picking up where Daphne left off working with so many different schools and having to wear so many hats. Congratulations Paul and good job.

Many of our students have embraced the Idle No More action. All are learning what it stands for, how it affects so many people (Not just First Nations people), how it affects the land, environment and so much more. Students have taken part in many of the rallies around Victoria. This semester a few of our students had the pleasure of meeting both Richard Van Camp and Thomas King; two prominent First Nations writers of such works as "The Lesser Blessed" By Richard Van Camp and "The Truth About Stories" By Thomas King. If you haven't read either of these books, I highly recommend them! This year we acquired a raffle license so that we can raffle tickets off for nine framed prints donated by local artists. All the monies raised will go

towards helping to pay for the Aboriginal Graduation Recognition Ceremony in May. If you haven't gotten your tickets yet, please contact one of the teachers or support workers to support our grads. The students had the pleasure of meeting Virgil Sampson, guest from the Role Model Program. He's Coast Salish and Nez Perce from the Tsartlip Tribe. He gave them a cultural lesson as well as taught them how to make Mandelas. All the kids were captivated by Virgil's words and were immersed in the Mandela making.

Many of our kids work was put on display at the Celebrating Students Success; making them all feel very proud of themselves as their art and written work had been seen by their families. Much fun was had by kids making pouches with Charlene George. Everyone enjoyed the salmon tarts that were offered in the front foyer by maker Thomas Munro. Thanks to Pacheedaht for donating the salmon! As we creep ever closer to Aboriginal Graduation, we keep (cont'd Page 19 Westshore Centre for Learning Training) plugging away at work, field trips, workshops, meetings and look forward to working with another role model Murray Campbell and head towards a successful end to the scholastic year! -

Sherri Rose, AESW and Loni Skelton, Teacher



T'Sou-ke Solar Tour—Belmont



UVic fieldtrip—bag lunch!



Celebrating Student Success event  
—Artwork

# DUCK SOUP FOR THE ABORIGINAL SOUL XIII- Spring 2013

## Pink

Pink looks like a tulip that  
Is shining  
From the bright sun in the sky  
Pink sounds like someone  
Is getting  
In a relationship with someone.  
Pink smells like a strawberry  
Shortcake  
That is really juicy pink.  
Pink tastes like a pink  
Fluff of cotton  
Candy from the fair.  
Pink feels like a pink  
Silky blanket  
On a fresh soft bed.  
Pink looks like a humming  
Bird that is  
Flying with its baby.  
Pink looks like a bird  
Chirping to  
Another bird in the trees.  
Pink smells like a piece  
Of bubble gum  
That you unwrapped.  
Pink tastes like a heart  
Shaped box of  
Chocolate for Valentine's Day.  
Pink feels like it is  
Autumn and  
Pink leaves are falling on you.  
Pink looks like someone  
Is walking out  
At a party wearing a pink  
prom dress.

By Jocelyn, Grade 6, Lakewood



Painting by Kaitlin P., Grade 10, EMCS



Painting by Gabby N., Grade 12, EMCS



**Spring/Summer  
Edition**

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**Submissions**

If you would like to submit artwork or poems to the  
Aboriginal Education Newsletter please forward your  
submissions to [ecovey@sd62.bc.ca](mailto:ecovey@sd62.bc.ca)

Earleen Covey (Aboriginal Education Department Secretary)

*Thanks to the Aboriginal Education Staff for  
the newsletter submissions!*



**Cut the coupon below – return to your school office to  
send to Kathleen King-Hunt at the SBO.**

Yes, I have read this newsletter with my family!

Return this coupon to win family books from Aboriginal Education  
Department. One coupon per family is fine.

A book prize will be forwarded to your school.

Name(s):

School:

Grade:

Return this coupon to your school's office to be forwarded to the SD62  
School Board Office.

Attention: Kathleen King-Hunt, District Principal Aboriginal Education

## Schools

Visit the District Resource Centre for numerous Aboriginal titles to use for the classroom teaching

### Newsletter April Coupon Winners!

- Brent, EMCS
- Willow, Belmont
- Robert, Belmont
- Tantyana, EMCS
- Brittney, EMCS
- Heidi, EMCS
- Kelly, EMCS
- Damian, MTC
- Kama, EMCS
- Patrick, EMCS
- Riley, EMCS
- Hannah, EMCS
- Taneeka, EMCS
- Courtney, EMCS
- Azlyn, EMCS
- Emily, EMCS
- Kim, EMCS
- Harry, Westshore FN Grad Program
- Maggie, Westshore Learning Centre
- Danielle, Westshore FN Grad Program
- Olivia, Belmont
- Charles, Belmont
- Mitchell, John Muir
- Travis, John Muir
- Jacob, Saseenos
- Raven, Saseenos,
- Shona, Poirier
- Quin, John Muir
- Tanner, Wishart
- Mateo, Happy Valley

B

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### Strong Reader Tools

*When I look at the cover of my book,  
my brain searches for information  
about...*

1. What I know for sure...

2. What it reminds me of...

3. What I wonder...

4. What I can now predict  
the book is going to be about...

*As I'm reading my book...*

5. I can stop reading when my brain  
says, "Hey! That didn't make sense  
when"...

6. I can search my brain for  
information that isn't in the book,  
this will help me to understand the  
book better...

7. I can say what the most important  
pieces of information are...

8. I can make pictures in my brain or  
see a movie of the book in my brain...

*After I've finished reading my book...*

9. I can now say how my thinking has  
changed from my prediction and  
I can retell the book...



## Upcoming Events

### Recognition Ceremony

May 2013

Location: Camosun College,  
Lansdowne Campus

By Invitation Only



Our graduation ceremony will be a full house this year with so many Aboriginal graduates. Hych' ka to our partner groups for donating to the event: Makola Housing, Dry Grad fund, SPEAC, Malcolm Barker (artist), Trudy Spiller.

Conrats to the committee for a top notch teamwork: Laurie, Gillian, Trish, Kathy, Lynn, Norma-Jean, Sherri, Loni, Michelle Thut and Shirley!

## Congrats!

Congrats to Journeys of the Heart, Wishart, program who won an award for Favourite Aboriginal Preschool Program.

Congrats to READ Society & Dunsmuir for award won at Cowichan Film Festival 2013!

Congrats to ROOTS 2013 for a fabulous art show at RRU May 11th and 12th.

## All the best ...

Welcome Brandy Elliott, Melinda Zela-da and Erin Wood to our department.  
Farewell to Tiara Glendale, Tania Fetherston and Ana Galac!

## Events.....!

Math Mania Night

Pacheedaht Nation Health Clinic

Families invited!

Date: June 19th, 2013

Time: 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

PIMS, UVIC, Pacheedaht Nation

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/439348666109342/#/>

### Métis Nation of Greater Victoria

Go to [www.mngv.ca](http://www.mngv.ca) for community monthly potluck locations and dates!

Join MNGV facebook too!